

Department of Public Health
and Human Services

Section:
CASE MANAGEMENT

TANF CASH ASSISTANCE

Subject:
Good Cause Criteria

Supersedes: FAIM 1509-1 (08/01/99)

References: ARM 37.78.102 and .508

GENERAL RULE--The applicant/participant is provided the opportunity to present reason (s) why he/she failed to comply with program eligibility requirements or provide necessary information and/or verification necessary to determine eligibility. These reasons will be evaluated to determine if they meet 'good cause' criteria. If good cause exists, the adverse action is not taken. The Eligibility Case Manager will discuss the circumstances with the individual in an effort to prevent noncompliance in the future. In many instances, this evaluation is immediate and the appropriate action taken promptly with appropriate notice. For the process on determining good cause when the claim is made after the imposition of a sanction, see TANF 702-2.

**GOOD CAUSE
CRITERIA RELATED
TO ELIGIBILITY
REQUIREMENTS**

If the applicant/participant fails to report changes, keep appointments, complete the eligibility redetermination process, or provide information and/or verification, the following circumstances must be present and verified to avoid the adverse action:

1. A temporary severe illness or injury serious enough to prevent reporting or attending the appointment;
2. Physical or mental incapacity significantly impairs the individual's ability to understand and/or comply with program requirements;
3. There is a temporary breakdown in transportation or child care arrangements;

NOTE: Transportation is considered to be available if the participant has the use of a private vehicle, public transportation, or can ride with someone else, provided the participant will not be required to accept a ride under circumstances which would be considered dangerous or unsuitable.

4. Severe weather conditions which make travel impossible or dangerous as experienced by others in the community;

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5. The individual is unable to comply due to a current domestic violence situation; and

6. Any other circumstances which are beyond the individual's control. For example, the participant missed his/her FIA renewal appointment due to becoming employed.

**GOOD CAUSE
CRITERIA RELATED
TO EMPLOYMENT**

If a participant terminates, reduces earnings or refuses suitable employment, the following circumstances must be present and verified to avoid the adverse action:

1. The participant is physically or mentally impaired (permanently or temporarily), determined and verified by a physician or licensed or certified psychologist or another member of the assistance unit is disabled (permanently or temporarily) and requires the participant's presence in the home on a continuous basis and there is no other resource available to provide care, verified by a physician or licensed psychologist.
2. The participant has an illness or injury serious enough to temporarily prevent continued employment.
3. The individual is sixty (60) years of age or older.
4. There is a breakdown in transportation or child care arrangements.
5. Working conditions are poor- risks to health, safety, and lack of worker's compensation coverage.
6. The individual is unable to comply due to a current domestic violence situation.
7. Other conditions and circumstances exist which prevent continuation of employment or make continuation of employment inadvisable.
8. Refusal to accept employment:
 - a. Wages offered are lower than state minimum wage;
 - b. Physical or mental problems significantly impair the individual's ability to perform required duties or he/she does not have the job skills required and the employer is not willing to train;
 - c. Transportation (personal, public, car pooling) is not available and the distance prohibits walking/bicycling;

NOTE:

Transportation is considered to be available if the participant has the use of a private vehicle, public transportation, or can ride with someone else, provided the participant will not be required to accept a ride under circumstances which would be considered dangerous or unsuitable.

- d. Working conditions are poor-risks to health, safety, and lack of worker's compensation coverage; or
- e. Suitable child care is not available during employment hours.

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